

The Value of Partners Report from State President Julie Steiner

I am honored to serve as your state Partners President. I am eager to focus my efforts on retaining, developing, and growing our membership by promoting the value that Partners brings to our local hospitals.

What benefit is there in belonging to our state organization? Here are the Top Ten Reasons I value Partners.

1. As healthcare volunteers we are genuinely interested in improving public health. We do that by developing personal connections between our hospitals and the community. From providing education to the community about how to control bleeding in a severely injured person, to providing food baskets to patients who are high risk for food insecurity, to spreading the word about new providers or the great care our hospitals provide, Partners serves to bring the community to the hospital.
2. We empower our members to be health advocates, helping ourselves and patients navigate the healthcare system.
3. Partners networking opportunities allow us to connect with other healthcare volunteers, building relationships, potential collaborations and sharing ideas across the state and region.
4. Through our advocacy efforts we have a collective voice with the Wisconsin Hospital Association in lobbying lawmakers to influence state policies and regulations that affect Wisconsin hospitals.
5. We offer our members access to information about current legislation, healthcare trends, and fundraising and service projects. This information is available through our newsletters, webinars, and conferences.
6. Partners offers professional development and leadership opportunities through participation on boards and committees and through our mentor program, allowing our members to gain leadership experience and contribute to decision making.
7. Partners promotes community building by fostering a sense of belonging and camaraderie with other community volunteers collaborating and funding projects to benefit the health of the community.
8. We support health careers by offering scholarship programs to high school and college students and hospital staff who are continuing their education.
9. We provide enrichment to volunteer services and volunteer services staff with our service flexibility, programming, and fresh ideas.
10. Our volunteer service saves our hospitals money. Our diverse attributes and talents are helpful to busy hospital staff. The value of our volunteer hours statewide in 2023 amounted to \$8,557,020.00.

There is work to be done as we face the changes and challenges confronting our organizations and healthcare in general.